Today's News - January 9, 2007

Mayors take on the impact of politics on urban design and development. -- A rival scheme for Hove (though they're not totally anti-Gehry). -- "Rudolph mania" stirs feuds. -- Green building soon to be required in York, U.K., and "no longer a fringe concept" in a California county. -- Tate Britain taps Caruso St. John. -- It's full steam ahead for San Diego museum expansion. -- An old St. Petersburg warehouse strikes the right note for new concert hall. -- A glass-and-steel up-and-comer rises in L.A.'s Century City. -- A $4 billion building boom in Philadelphia brings a new breed of hospital. -- Aesthetics need not take the back seat in parking garage design. -- Some amusing strategies for living in MIT's sponge. -- Glancey's pick of five buildings with free access, "each of them a particular delight." -- Fay Jones as artist on view in Oregon. -- Another take on "The Eighth Wonder of the World" about "Mussolini's vanity, buffoonery...and bombastic architectural ambition." -- Interesting list of Top 100 most influential figures in American history.

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Twenty Years of Shaping Civic Design: Mayors' Institute on City Design...the impact of politics on city design and the future of urban development in America's cities. -- Paul Goldberger; Mayors: Douglas Palmer/Trenton; Joseph P. Riley, Jr./Charleston; David Cicilline/Providence; T.M. Franklin Cownie/Des Moines- Architecture Radio

A rival for King Alfred leisure centre: The people of Brighton and Hove are being asked to back a rival scheme..."We are not anti-Gehry. Had it been another location it might have been okay." -- Nick Lomax/LCE Architects- The Argus (UK)

Other Structures of Famed Architect Also Stir Feuds: ...angry Westporters are not alone, as Paul Rudolph mania flourishes at times in Florida, New York and New Haven.- Westport News (Connecticut)

Green light for architecture: New environmental regulations set to take effect within the next three years will dramatically change how commercial properties are valued...- The Press (York, UK)

Building a green revolution: A growing focus on Earth-friendly design...is fueling a surge in green building activity in San Luis Obispo County...no longer a fringe concept. -- San Luis Sustainability Group; Habitat Studio; Build It Green Consulting; Leonard Grant Architect; RRM Design Group- San Luis Obispo Tribune (California)

Caruso St. John Appointed Architects for Tate Britain -- John Miller + Partners; DRMM (de Rijke, Marsh, Morgan Architects); DSDHA (Deborah Saunt David Hills Architects; MUMA (McInnes, Usher, McKnight Architects); HOK International; Rick Mather Architects- Art Daily

Modern art's train reaches the station: The Museum of Contemporary Art San Diego expands into the Santa Fe Depot. -- Richard Gluckman [images]- Los Angeles Times

Gergiev's Opus: A New Concert Hall: A busy Russian conductor spearheads construction of a St. Petersburg theater...$40 million concert hall...in a redbrick warehouse on a side street near the Maryinsky Theater -- Viktor Schröter (1880s); Dominique Perrault; Xavier Fabre; Yasuhisa Toyota- New York Times

Up-and-comer on Avenue of the Stars: ...sleek glass-and-steel structure is as striking as any to go up in the Southland recently...has a more-sustainable-than-average design...Creative Artists Agency will depart its I.M. Pei-designed building...for its larger home. By Scott Timberg -- Gene Watanabe /Gensler [images]- Los Angeles Times

Hospitals whose layouts are meant to improve care: Hospital construction is booming here, using building layouts that scientists believe will help patients get healthier. -- Roger Ulrich; EwingCole; Center for Health Design- Philadelphia Inquirer

Aesthetics Need Not Take a Back Seat in Public Garage Design: Few architects hunger for the opportunity to design a parking garage. Yet this assumption deserves to be challenged. By Roger K. Lewis -- Hartman-Cox; Paul Spreiregen; Skidmore Owings & Merrill- Washington Post

Sponge Life: Our intrepid reporter ventures into Simmons Hall to find out what it's like to dwell in the Sponge...what's it like to live in a work of art? ...requires--or instills--adaptability. -- Steven Holl- MIT Technology Review

Access all areas: Jonathan Glancey takes a look at five buildings that everyone is free to cherish...each of them a particular delight. -- Frank Matcham; Enric Miralles; John Gwynn (1774); Alsop and Stormer; Paul Bellot (1900)- Guardian (UK)

On view: "Fay Jones: Painted Fictions" at the Hallie Ford Museum, Salem, Oregon, through January 20- Art Daily

A Prince's towering ambition: Benito Mussolini's vanity, buffoonery and general incompetence take starring roles in Leslie Epstein's new novel of Italian fascism and bombastic architectural ambition: "The Eighth Wonder of the World: A Novel"- Miami Herald

The Top 100: The most influential figures in American history. -- Rachel Carson (#39); Frederick Law Olmsted (#49); Louis Sullivan (#59); Frank Lloyd Wright (#76)- The Atlantic

Celebrating Green: The decade-long history of the AIA/COTE's Top Ten Green Projects program is a portrait of evolution in the field. By Kira Gould [images]- ArchNewsNow

-- Gehry Partners, LLP: Foundation Louis Vuitton, Paris
-- Oppenheim architecture + design: COR, Miami
-- Exhibition: Skin + Bones, Museum of Contemporary Art (MOCA), Los Angeles

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